

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, beginning with the words “Referring now also to FIG. 4 . . .” and ending with the words “. . . at least two sections.” with the following paragraph:

Referring now to also to FIG. 4, each side of the utility bag has a means for retaining a side panel 260 against the interior surface of a side wall 200. In the preferred embodiment, the side panel retaining means is an upper pocket 220 and a lower pocket 230. Bilaterally symmetrical rigid or semirigid side panels 260 are removably retained between the upper pocket 220 and corresponding lower pocket 230 on each side, thus providing rigid support to the side walls 200 when the side panels 260 are in place. In the preferred embodiment, the side panels 260 are just flexible enough to allow insertion into the pockets, while still providing rigid support to the side walls 200. The side panels 260 are removed from the upper pocket 220 and the lower pocket 230 when the user desires to collapse the utility bag. In the preferred embodiment, the side panels 260 are comprised of plastic, but other materials well known in the art may be substituted. Furthermore, one or more straps 240 may detachably attach, for example by snaps, to the interior surfaces of the rigid side panels 260. The straps 240 are capable of providing support for at least one removable shelf **241**, as shown in **FIG. 4**, which may also be utilized to divide the interior of the utility bag into at least two sections.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, beginning with the words "Another advantage . . ." and ending with the words ". . . trip home." with the following paragraph:

Another advantage of the utility bag of the present invention is that it may be used as an advertising vehicle. The bag[,] with advertising 600 imprinted upon it (as shown in FIG. 4), may be distributed in expanded form to attendees of a convention. The bag may be filled at the convention with various brochures, literature, and samples. The bag may then be collapsed and conveniently placed within other luggage for the trip home.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, beginning with the words "The method of expanding . . ." and ending with the words ". . . the utility bag." with the following paragraph:

The method of expanding and collapsing the utility bag of the present invention will now be described in more detail. Referring to FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, the expanded utility bag comprises the two side walls 200, the top wall 300, and a bottom wall 500. Each side wall 200 is capable of being supported by insertion of a side panel 260 into and between an upper pocket 220 and a lower pocket 230. The top panel 360 provides support to the top wall 300, and the bottom panel 560 provides support to the bottom wall 500. A shelf 241 may be removably positioned on the straps 240 between the side panels 260, as shown in FIG. 4. In this preferred embodiment, the door 100 is hingedly attached to the front of the bottom wall 500. The method of expanding the utility bag, and rendering the utility bag rigid comprises joining and fastening, for example by hook and loop fasteners or snaps, the top panel 360 to the top wall 300, similarly joining and fastening the bottom panel 560 to the bottom wall 500, and inserting the side panels 260 into the side panel retaining means of each side wall 200. The method of collapsing the utility bag

comprises removing the side panels 260 from each of the side panel retaining means of the side walls 200, pivoting the bottom panel 560 and the top panel 360 towards each other to abut the rear wall 400, and moving the front rectangular opening 150 towards the rear wall 400 to collapse the utility bag.